

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 AF-08

ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 TRSE-00

MC-02 /129 W

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P 200043Z NOV 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 946

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 5469

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: UNGA DISARMAMENT: CONVENTIONAL ARMS

REF: USUN 4826

1. SUMMARY. JAPANESE HAVE UNDERTAKEN INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS AMONG SELECT GROUP OF NON-ALIGNED DELS, MAINLY ASIAN, IN EFFORT TO DEVELOP A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR GOVERNMENTAL COMMENTS ON THE CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER PROBLEM AND REQUESTING AN EXPERTS' STUDY OF THE GENERAL QUESTION. DEPENDING UPON REACTION OF NON-ALIGNED GROUP AS A WHOLE, CONFIDENTIAL

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AJAPANESE HOPE TO HAVE THEIR DRAFT (TEXT BELOW) FORMALLY

INTRODUCED BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK. BELGIANS APPEAR TO HAVE DECIDED TO ABANDON THEIR APPROACH TO A CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESOLUTION IN THE FORM OF A STUDY OF "REGIONAL ASPECTS OF DISARMAMENT" IN LIGHT OF WIDESPREAD UNEASINESS, PARTICULARLY AMONG WESTERN DELS. DEL REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON APPROACH TAKEN IN JAPANESE RESOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING PAST WEEK JAPANESE HAVE BEEN CONSULTING WITH A NUMBER OF NON-ALIGNED DELEGATIONS, MOSTLY ASIAN, THAT HAVE APPEARED SYMPATHETIC TO A RENEWED EFFORT TO PROMOTE UNGA ACTION IN THE FIELD OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL. THEY HAVE REPORTEDLY RECEIVED GENERALLY ENCOURAGING RESPONSES FROM THOSE CONSULTED, AND ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING A BALANCED GROUP OF CO-SPONSORS FOR A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR GOVERNMENT VIEWS ON THE PROBLEM OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND REQUESTING A STUDY OF THE PROBLEM BY THE SYG WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF QUALIFIED EXPERTS. THEY HOPE TO HAVE RESOLUTION READY TO TABLE BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK. HOWEVER, FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER TO PROCEED WILL NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL REACTION OF NON-ALIGNED DISARMAMENT COORDINATING GROUP IS KNOWN (THE JAPANESE HAVE PROVIDED THAT GROUP WITH THEIR TEXT).

3. AT NOV 18 BARTON GROUP MEETING, SEVERAL WESTERN DELS (INCLUDING NETHERLANDS, IRELAND, DENMARK, NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, AND CANADA) EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR JAPANESE EFFORT. SOME ALSO OFFERED TO CO-SPONSOR IT, BUT THERE WAS GENERAL RECOGNITION THAT EXCESSIVE SIGNS OF WESTERN INTEREST WOULD EXACERBATE NON-ALIGNED SUSPICIONS.

4. AT SAME MEETING BELGIAN REP ELLIOTT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BELGIAN APPROACH CALLING FOR STUDY OF "ALL ASPECTS OF REGIONAL DISARMAMENT" HAD RUN INTO OBJECTIONS FROM MANY OTHER WESTERN DELS (ESPECIALLY FRG, ITALY, AND FRANCE) WHO FEARED SO BROAD AN APPROACH WOULD REVIVE DEBATES OVER NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONES AND OPEN DOOR TO UNGA SCRUTINY OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. HE INDICATED THAT BELGIANS WERE CONSIDERING CIRCULATION OF WORKING PAPER EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS ON REGIONAL DISARMAMENT AS WAY OF BRINGING SUBJECT INTO THE OPEN WITHOUT CALLING FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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ANY SPECIFIC ACTION.

5. USDEL HAS TOLD JAPANESE THAT WE WOULD SEEK GUIDANCE ON APPROACH TAKEN IN JAPANESE DRAFT. WE HAVE SOUGHT FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF JAPANESE IDEAS ON SCOPE AND CONTENT OF PROPOSED STUDY. JAPANESE HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY ARE OPEN-MINDED ON THIS AND BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE TO REFER AT PRESENT ONLY TO GENERAL QUESTION LEAVING IT TO

EXPERTS TO DETERMINE PRECISE SCOPE. THENOTE THAT ANY MORE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE WOULD BE LIKELY EITHER TO RULE OUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF TOUCHING ON QUESTION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINTS OR, IF SPECIFIC MENTION OF THIS SUBJECT WERE MADE, TO MAKE PROPOSAL UNACCEPTABLE TO NON-ALIGNED. DELOFF HAS NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM POSED BY LANGUAGE CALLING FOR THE STUDY TO BE PREPARED WITH ASSISTANCE OF "QUALIFIED EXPERTS," WHICH COULD OPEN DOOR TO PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE EXPERTS, AND SUGGESTED THAT TEXT REFER TO "QUALIFIED EXPERTS NOMINATED BY GOVERNMENTS" TO ENSURE THAT, AS IN PREVIOUS SYG STUDIES, GOVERNMENTS BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTENTS. JAPANESE DELOFF SAWAI HAS UNDERTAKEN TO SUGGEST THIS LANGUAGE TO OTHERS. MORE GENERALLY, HOWEVER, JAPANESE WANT US VIEWS ON THE OVERALL IDEA OF CONDUCTING A STUDY, ASSUMING IDEA WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO NON-ALIGNED (AND SOVIETS). (JAPANESE HAVE GIVEN A COPY OF THE DRAFT TO THE POLES, BUT HAVE NOT YET DISCUSSED IT DIRECTLY WITH THE SOVIETS).

6 COMMENT: IN VIEW OF LONG-STANDING US INTEREST IN DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER PROBLEM, DEL BELIEVES JAPANESE EFFORT DESREVES OUR QUIET ENCOURAGEMENT. IT IS NOT ALL CLEAR THAT CURRENT JAPANESE EFFORT WILL BE ANY MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN SIMILAR EFFORTS DURING THE 1960'S BY MALTESE AND THEN DANES. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN UNUSUALLY STRONG EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS PROBLEM ON PART OF SOME NON-ALIGNED, EXPECIALLY SINGAPORE AND PHILIPPINES (BOTH, OF COURSE, ASEAN COUNTIRES), THERE ARE ALSO SIGNS OF AN EMERGING COUNTER-REACTION. INDIAN AMB MISHRA, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL IN HIS NOV 17 FIRST COMMITTEE STATEMENT

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OF TALK ABOUT RESTRAINTS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER, CHARGING THAT THIS WAS ANOTHER EFFORT BY BIG POWERS TO ENSURE DOMINATION OVER SMALL STATES. SUCCESS BY JAPANESE AND OTHERS IN OVERCOMING THESE AND OTHER OBJECTIONS (I.E., DIVERSION OF ATTENTION FROM NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT) TO CONSIDERATION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS QUESTION, EVEN BY MEANS OF AN VERY MODEST RESOLUTION, WOULD REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT NEW STEP IN THE MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT DISCUSSIONS. IT COULD ALSO PROVIDE A STEP THAT COULD BE BUILT UPON IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SPECIAL UNGA SESSION ON DISARMAMENT IN 1978. END COMMENT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEL REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON JAPNESE EFFORT AND RESOLUTION, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO PROPOSED SYG STUDY.

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 AF-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 947

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 5469

8. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JAPANES RESOLUTION.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NOTING THE CONCERN EXPRESSED IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OVER THE RAPIDLY INCREASING INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS OF CON-
VENTIONAL ARMS AND THE RESULTING BUILDUP OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS.

CONVINCED OF THE URGENT NEED TO CURB THE CONVENTIONAL
ARMS RACE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE SUPREME IMPORTANCE OF
NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, AND TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS GENERAL
AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT.

CONVINCED OF THE NEED TO ASSURE THE USE OF THE RESOURCES

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WHICH ARE NOW BEING DIVERTED TO THE PRODUCTION AND PURCHASE OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS, FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL COUNTRIES AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF WORLD ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

1. INVITES ALL MEMBER STATES TO COMMUNICATE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BEFORE 1 MAY 1977 THEIR VIEWS AND SUGGESTION ON THE QUESTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS.
 2. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO SUBMIT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION A REPORT CONTAINING THE COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED UNDER PARAGRAPH 1.
 3. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF QUALIFIED EXPERTS, TO TAKE A FACTUAL STUDY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND SUBMIT IT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION.
 4. DECIDES TO INCLUDE IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF ITS THIRTY SECOND SESSION AN ITEM ENTITLED: "QUESTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS."
- SCRANTON

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